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# Welcome

Our monthly e-newsletter will give you a quick look at what's kept us busy in the last month and what's coming up. If there's information you would like to see included or if you have any questions about our activities, please let us know! [info@afac.ab.ca](mailto:info@afac.ab.ca)

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## Executive Director's Update

March is an important month for the AFAC team. We are on the road attending a number of our commodity members' conferences, and planning for our own. The Livestock Care Conference is the highlight of our year and also includes our AGM - which wraps up the past year and kicks off the next.

Without quorum last year, we were not able to complete the business or pass our resolutions which made this year even more important than most because we had two year's worth of business to accomplish. We are also challenged because our current bylaws contain quite a bit of operational policy, that honestly doesn't need to be there. In the next year I will be working on streamlining the bylaws and building a comprehensive Policy & Procedure handbook to make the business of AFAC a lot easier to manage. That means we will need another 75% quorum to achieve the changes, and I will be chasing votes and proxies again next year. I am looking for ways to improve the process and we will be reaching out to members directly at the start of 2020.

The Livestock Care Conference was a great success this year - and lived up to the theme of Partners in Progress. There were fantastic discussions and cross industry panels. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback and have confirmed the date for next year - **March 18-19, 2020.**

Our board met last week and elected the executive committee. Cora Scheele with Alberta Hatching Egg will remain our Chair; James Jenkins with Western Stock Growers Association is returning as Vice-Chair; Casey Vander Ploeg will take over as Finance Chair; and Darrell Dalton with ABVMA is our new Advisory Council Moderator. Greg Bowie and Brent Bushell have stepped down from their board roles - a huge thank you to both of these gentlemen, as they played important roles in moving AFAC forward over the last few years. And welcome to Melanie Wowk from Alberta Beef and Steve Mason with AgroMedia International, our newest board members.

We have already started work on the 2019-2021 strategic plan and this year will see a lot of effort and activity in continuing that momentum - whether increasing our presence at public education events, speaking with primary producers from post-secondary students on up to current farmers and ranchers, or making provisions to transfer to a virtual office. Everything we do will be tied to the goals and objectives we have set out in the three year strategy. For more information on AFAC's direction, check out our [website](#).

As always, please let me know if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns. You can reach me by email anytime at [annemarie@afac.ab.ca](mailto:annemarie@afac.ab.ca) or call me at 403-652-5111.



2019 AFAC Board

Back Row from l to r: Casey Vander Ploeg (Finance Chair); Darrell Dalton (Advisory Council Moderator); Heini Hehli; Melanie Wowk; Steve Mason  
Front Row l to r: Laurie Fries; Cora Scheele (Chair).  
Absent James Jenkins (Vice Chair)

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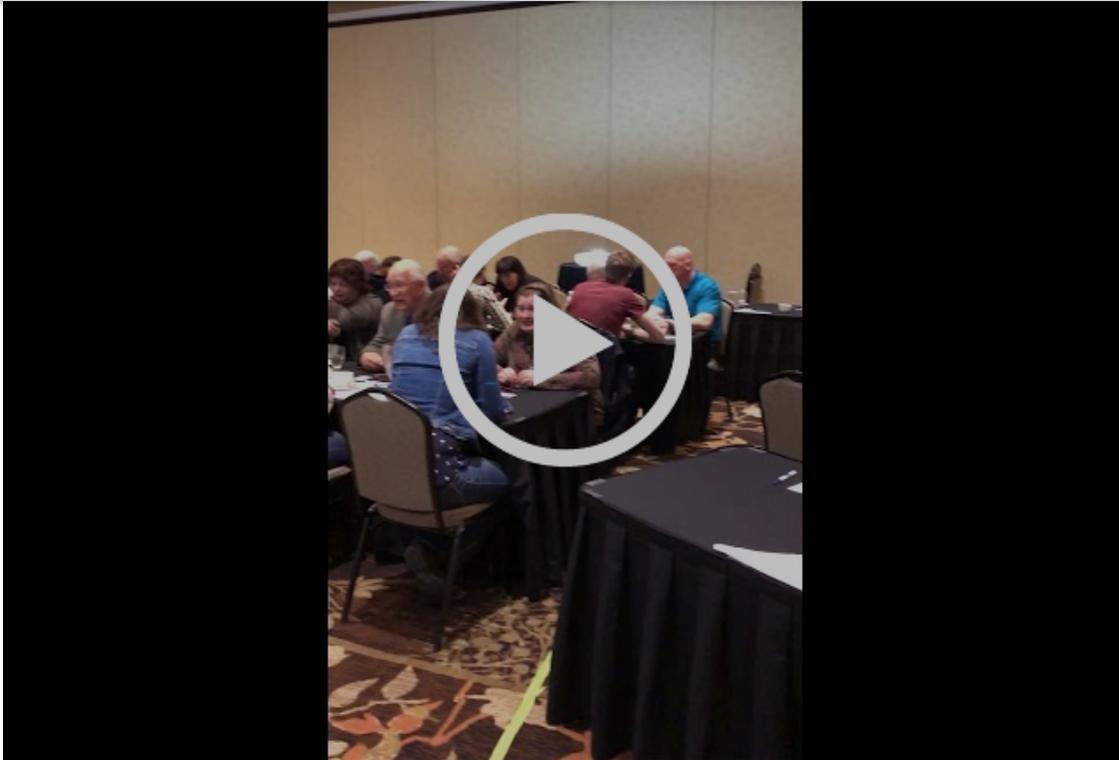
## Marketing and Membership Manager's Update

The month of March has been filled with Livestock Care Conference Planning and the follow through of the conference on March 20 & 21. It was rewarding to see all of the little details fall into place last week as the AFAC team welcomed the amazing speakers, sponsors and conference attendees!



*The experts enjoying themselves at our mentorship event*

The event kicked off with Dr. Rebecca Gimenez and a Condensed Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) Workshop which left the attendees wanting more- Stay tuned for that! This was followed by the FCC Meet the Experts session which had 29 students and 30 experts in attendance. It was amazing to hear all of the conversations and the noise in the room could be heard throughout the hotel! Our hope is that these students and experts create lifelong connections. On the actual day of the conference (March 21), we had so many inspirational speakers involved with all different types of livestock commodities that really helped highlight the theme- Partners in Progress: Tools for Success. [Please click here to see our full news release with all of the details.](#)



The room was bzzzzing at the Meet the Experts session!

As I finish up before my maternity leave, I have a mixture of emotions! Obviously, we are so excited to welcome the new addition to our family, but I am also so lucky to work at such a great organization with so many great people (many of whom I hope are reading this). I will miss interacting and working with all of you over the next year, BUT I will see you when I get back!

Kristen Hall

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## Communications Coordinator's Update

What a month! March really made up for a slow, cold February by speeding by and giving us a taste of some warm, spring weather.

Getting ready for LCC 2019 I kept busy finishing up our 2018 Annual Report. A hard copy is now available by request (or click the image below for the digital version) if you want to take a look at what the AFAC team accomplished last year. We have so many great interns and volunteers that have made planning for events this spring

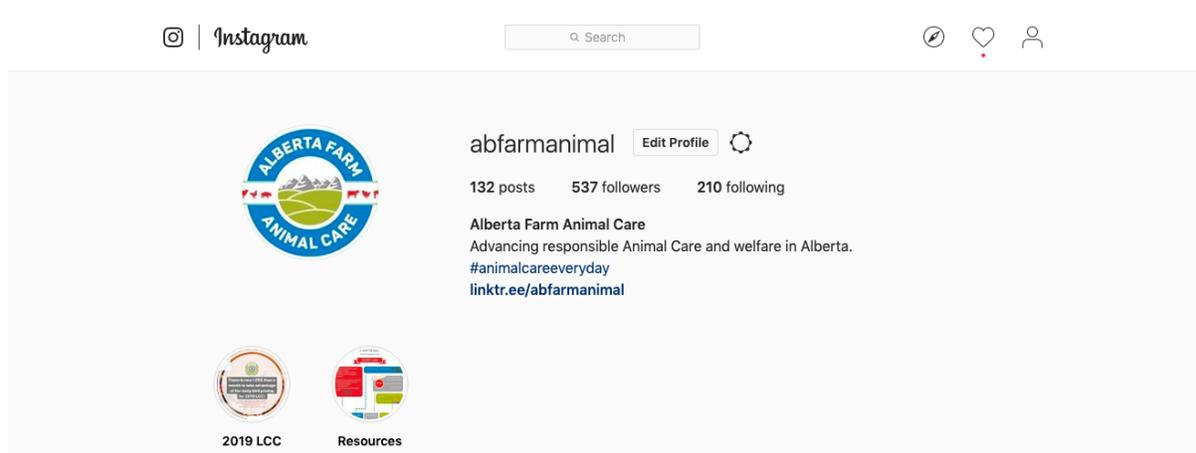


# 2018 Annual Report



At the 2019 Livestock Care Conference, we unveiled our new three-year strategic plan along with a short video touching on some important points. [This is available on our website as well!](#) We have new blog posts if you'd like to see some highlights from our student sponsorship program, speakers, and more.

Our social media presence is growing and we are now on [LinkedIn!](#) Follow us to



Kristen Lepp

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## Extension Coordinator's Update

As always, March is a busy month. Not only were we preparing for our Livestock Care Conference this month, but other organizations also had meetings and conferences that we were happy to attend.

We attended the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar in Red Deer. The Seminar was packed with excellent talks, those that apply to dairy producers and those that apply to everyone in the agricultural industry. I personally enjoyed the presentations on earning public trust, producer mental health, improving fresh cow performance, dairy calf health, and the student presentations were excellent as always.

We then took part in the National Beef Technology Transfer Meeting. A webinar hosted by the Beef Cattle Research Council. The meeting highlighted collaborative extension projects ongoing across Canada. This allowed groups to be aware of what is going on in the country, share resources when possible, and avoid duplication. It's incredible how much work is being done from coast to coast!

I then presented findings from the Cattle Benchmarking Project at the Alberta Auction Market Association Meeting at the Alberta Beef Industry Conference. Members of the association had great questions and were interested in our next steps.



Of course, on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> we had our Livestock Care Conference. We had a great turnout from across the industry. I think one of my favourite parts of the conference every year is seeing people from all aspects of the industry, from different sectors, with varying years of experience, network and learn from one another.

Right after our conference, I was in Airdrie for the Pain Mitigation in Livestock Strategies Update and Industry Round Table funded by Chinook Contract Research, Alberta Beef Producers, and the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program. The day was packed with presentations on current research and new developments and lively discussions about gaps, new focuses, and next steps.

I'm looking forward to what this spring has to bring!

Melissa Moggy

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## ALERT Line

The [ALERT Line](#) is an anonymous, producer-helping-producer call line. If you ever see animals in distress, call **1-800-506-2273**

There have been 13 total calls in the month of March on the ALERT Line, which has been one of our slower months. Of those calls, just one was an information call, the rest were cases.

Cases:

- 7 horse related calls
- 5 beef cattle related calls

Common Concerns: No feed, water, shelter and very cold temperatures. Of the cases, six of them were passed to the Alberta SPCA. This could be due to the severity of the cases or that we had a lack of volunteers in the area.

Two of those calls were unfounded meaning that a volunteer went out to assess the situation, but there were no concerns.

Two of the calls were resolved meaning that a volunteer spoke with the owner and helped to correct the situation.

One of the calls is still pending meaning it is still awaiting resolution.

Lastly, two calls were repeat calls about previous cases before.

We are excited to welcome new additions to the ALERT Line team this month!

Trevor Currie and Sarah Linde will be joining as ALERT Line Coordinators while Kristen Hall is on maternity leave. We are excited to be working with them and look forward to expanding from our Kristen-only coordinator team for the next year.



## Upcoming industry events

### [Calgary Aggie Days](#)

- April 3-7
- Calgary, AB

### [Feed Your Mind -Aggie Days Date Night](#)

- April 4
- Calgary, AB

### [Backyard or Small Flock Care](#)

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- Lacombe, AB

[Lethbridge Aggie Days](#)

- April 10 & 11

- Lethbridge, AB

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**Check out our blog**

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